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## REVIEWS.

### THE CIVIL WAR AND THE CONSTITUTION.

**THE AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES. THE CIVIL WAR AND THE CONSTITUTION.** By John W. Burgess, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Political Science and Constitutional Law in Columbia University. With Maps. 2 Vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901.

This is the fifth number in the "American History Series," and the two volumes cover the very interesting period of the Civil War. Prof. Burgess is a good constitutional lawyer, but we doubt his capacity to enter upon the difficult field of military history. None but a soldier by instinct or training possesses the qualities necessary for such work, and it can scarcely be claimed that Prof. Burgess enjoys such gifts either from the one source or the other. He writes clearly and well. His delineations of character are, moreover, excellent, notably those of Davis, Lincoln, and Douglas. Note, for example, the following well-drawn contrasts: "Davis was tall, well-formed, erect, handsome, dignified, and graceful. He bore all the marks of a well-born, well-bred, cultured gentleman. Lincoln was very tall, lank, ungainly, homely, and awkward; but dignified and grave even to melancholy. No one could doubt, after a little contact with him, that he was on the inside a true gentleman, although the outward polish failed him almost completely. Douglas was rather short and thick-set, with a massive head, well-developed forehead, and deeply planted, brilliant blue eyes, which in moments of excitement seemed to emit electric sparks. He was, withal, good-looking and very genial and courteous."

In his chapter on the antislavery sentiment in the South between 1857 and 1860 Prof. Burgess maintains that this hostility, while social, was nevertheless leading to political differences. Clay's death left the Whig party momentarily without a leader, but Bell's stand against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, in 1854, made him the chief figure of the opposition and its logical presidential candidate in 1860. Of

John Brown's raid Prof. Burgess has this to say: "Nothing could have been more untoward, wickedly harmful, and positively diabolical. . . . If the whole thing, both as to time, methods, and results, had been planned by his Satanic Majesty himself, it could not have succeeded better in setting the sound conservative movements of the age at naught and in creating a state of feeling which offered the most capital opportunities for the triumph of political insincerity, radicalism, and rascality over their opposites."

Our author's descriptions of the presidential election of 1860, the drift toward secession, and the capture of Fort Sumter are truly graphic; but when he essays the difficult tasks of picturing Pope's campaign in Northeastern Virginia, Bragg's invasion of Kentucky, and the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, he grows exceedingly tiresome, not for the want of material, which he has in abundance, but simply for the reason that he is not a military writer. In his description of the international complications during the closing years of the war Prof. Burgess gets back to safer ground. Nothing in his work is clearer, for example, than his account of the diplomatic victories of Mr. Seward. He is to be congratulated, moreover, on the absence of that sectional rancor and American bombast which too frequently beset many of our latter-day historians. On the whole, the work before us is better adapted to the wants of the general reader than to those of the teacher, but the period is well covered and the student will find it both interesting and stimulating.

B. J. R.

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#### THE LESSONS OF RECONSTRUCTION.

RECONSTRUCTION AND THE CONSTITUTION, 1866-1876. By John W. Burgess, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Political Science and Constitutional Law and Dean of the Faculty of Political Science in Columbia University. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1902. \$1.

The very scholarly study of "Reconstruction," in which Prof. Burgess continues his volumes on the Civil War and the period immediately preceding it in the American History Series, is doubly timely in view of present and prospective